



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 6548***

LCO No. 4090



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JURY  
SELECTION TASK FORCE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 51-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

3 (a) All jurors shall be electors, individuals lawfully admitted for  
4 permanent residence, as defined in 8 USC 1101(a)(20), as amended from  
5 time to time, or citizens of the United States, who are residents of this  
6 state having a permanent place of abode in this state and appear on the  
7 list compiled by the Jury Administrator under subsection (b) of section  
8 51-222a, who have reached the age of eighteen. A person shall be  
9 disqualified to serve as a juror if such person: (1) Is found by a judge of  
10 the Superior Court to exhibit any quality which will impair the capacity  
11 of such person to serve as a juror, except that no person shall be  
12 disqualified because the person is deaf or hard of hearing; (2) [has been  
13 convicted of a felony within the past seven years or is a defendant in a  
14 pending felony case or is in the custody of the Commissioner of  
15 Correction] is in the physical custody of the Commissioner of Correction

16 within a correctional facility or other similar facility; (3) is not able to  
17 speak and understand the English language; (4) is the Governor,  
18 Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller or  
19 Attorney General; (5) is a judge of the Probate Court, Superior Court,  
20 Appellate Court or Supreme Court, is a family support magistrate or is  
21 a federal court judge; (6) is a member of the General Assembly, provided  
22 such disqualification shall apply only while the General Assembly is in  
23 session; (7) is a registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters of a  
24 municipality, provided such disqualification shall apply only during the  
25 period from twenty-one days before the date of a federal, state or  
26 municipal election, primary or referendum to twenty-one days after the  
27 date of such election, primary or referendum, inclusive; (8) is [seventy]  
28 seventy-five years of age or older and chooses not to perform juror  
29 service; (9) is incapable, by reason of a physical or mental disability, of  
30 rendering satisfactory juror service; or (10) for the jury year commencing  
31 on September 1, 2017, and each jury year thereafter, has served in the  
32 United States District Court for the District of Connecticut as (A) a  
33 federal juror on a matter that has been tried to a jury during the last three  
34 preceding jury years, or (B) a federal grand juror during the last three  
35 preceding jury years. Any person claiming a disqualification under  
36 subdivision (9) of this subsection shall submit to the Jury Administrator  
37 a letter from a licensed health care provider stating the health care  
38 provider's opinion that such disability prevents the person from  
39 rendering satisfactory juror service. In reaching such opinion, the health  
40 care provider shall apply the following guideline: A person shall be  
41 capable of rendering satisfactory juror service if such person is able to  
42 perform a sedentary job requiring close attention for six hours per day,  
43 with short work breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions, for at  
44 least three consecutive business days. Any person claiming a  
45 disqualification under subdivision (10) of this subsection shall supply  
46 proof of federal jury service satisfactory to the Jury Administrator.

47 (b) The Jury Administrator may determine, in such manner and at  
48 such times as the Jury Administrator deems feasible, whether any  
49 person is qualified to serve as juror under this section and whether any

50 person may be excused for extreme hardship.

51 (c) The Jury Administrator shall have the authority to establish and  
52 maintain a list of persons to be excluded from the summoning process,  
53 which shall consist of (1) persons who are disqualified from serving on  
54 jury duty on a permanent basis due to a disability for which a licensed  
55 physician or an advanced practice registered nurse has submitted a  
56 letter stating the physician's or advanced practice registered nurse's  
57 opinion that such disability permanently prevents the person from  
58 rendering satisfactory jury service, (2) persons [seventy] seventy-five  
59 years of age or older who have requested not to be summoned, (3)  
60 elected officials enumerated in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this  
61 section and judges enumerated in subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of  
62 this section during their term of office, and (4) persons excused from  
63 jury service pursuant to section 51-217a who have not requested to be  
64 summoned for jury service pursuant to said section. Persons requesting  
65 to be excluded pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection  
66 must provide the Jury Administrator with their names, addresses, dates  
67 of birth and federal Social Security numbers for use in matching. The  
68 request to be excluded may be rescinded at any time with written notice  
69 to the Jury Administrator.

70 Sec. 2. Section 51-220 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
71 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

72 (a) The number of jurors to be chosen from each town shall be equal  
73 to a percentage of the town's population rounded off to the nearest  
74 whole number, such percentage to be determined by the Jury  
75 Administrator [. Such population figures shall derive from the last  
76 published census of the United States government.] in accordance with  
77 the provisions of this section and section 51-220a, as amended by this  
78 act. The number of jurors chosen from each town shall reflect the  
79 proportional representation of the population of each town within the  
80 judicial district. The Jury Administrator shall calculate such percentage  
81 by determining each town's proportional share of the population of the  
82 judicial district and dividing that proportional share by the town's yield

83 ratio. A town's yield ratio shall be calculated by dividing the number of  
84 jurors from such town who, when summoned during the previous  
85 calendar year, complied with the summons to appear for jury service,  
86 by the product that results when the town's proportional share of the  
87 population of the judicial district is multiplied by the total number of  
88 jurors summoned in the judicial district in the previous calendar year.

89 (b) The Jury Administrator shall derive population figures from the  
90 most recent decennial census.

91 Sec. 3. Section 51-220a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
92 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

93 (a) Electronic data processing and similar equipment may be used in  
94 the selection, drawing and summoning of jurors under this chapter. At  
95 [his] the Jury Administrator's election, the Jury Administrator may enter  
96 into a computerized data processing file the names of persons appearing  
97 on the list compiled under subsection (b) of section 51-222a, in order to  
98 perform any of the duties prescribed in this chapter.

99 (b) In carrying out the duties prescribed in section 51-220, as  
100 amended by this act, the Jury Administrator annually shall compile the  
101 number of jurors summoned from each town who complied with the  
102 summons and appeared for jury service.

103 Sec. 4. Section 51-232 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
104 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

105 (a) The Jury Administrator shall send to each juror drawn, by first  
106 class mail, a notice stating the place where and the time when he or she  
107 is to appear and such notice shall constitute a sufficient summons unless  
108 a judge of said court directs that jurors be summoned in some other  
109 manner.

110 (b) Such summons or notice shall also state the fact that a juror has a  
111 right to one postponement of the juror's term of juror service for not  
112 more than ten months and may contain any other information and

113 instructions deemed appropriate by the Jury Administrator. If the date  
114 to which the juror has postponed jury service is improper, unavailable  
115 or inconvenient for the court, the Jury Administrator shall assign a date  
116 of service which, if possible, is reasonably close to the postponement  
117 date selected by the juror. Such notice or summons shall be made  
118 available to any party or to the attorney for such party in an action to be  
119 tried to a jury. The Jury Administrator may grant additional  
120 postponements within or beyond said ten months but not beyond one  
121 year from the original summons date.

122 (c) The Jury Administrator shall send to a prospective juror a juror  
123 confirmation form and a confidential juror questionnaire. Such  
124 questionnaire shall include questions eliciting the juror's name, age, race  
125 and ethnicity, occupation, education and information usually raised in  
126 voir dire examination. The questionnaire shall inform the prospective  
127 juror that information concerning race and ethnicity is required solely  
128 to enforce nondiscrimination in jury selection, that the furnishing of  
129 such information is not a prerequisite to being qualified for jury service  
130 and that such information need not be furnished if the prospective juror  
131 finds it objectionable to do so. Such juror confirmation form and  
132 confidential juror questionnaire shall be signed by the prospective juror  
133 under penalty of false statement. Copies of the completed  
134 questionnaires shall be provided to the judge and counsel for use during  
135 voir dire or in preparation therefor. Counsel shall be required to return  
136 such copies to the clerk of the court upon completion of the voir dire.  
137 Except for disclosure made during voir dire or unless the court orders  
138 otherwise, information inserted by jurors shall be held in confidence by  
139 the court, the parties, counsel and their authorized agents. Such  
140 completed questionnaires shall not constitute a public record.

141 (d) The number of jurors in a panel may be reduced when, in the  
142 opinion of the court, such number of jurors is in excess of reasonable  
143 requirements. Such reduction by the clerk shall be accomplished by lot  
144 to the extent authorized by the court and the jurors released shall be  
145 subject to recall for jury duty only if and when required.

146 (e) In each judicial district, the Chief Court Administrator shall  
147 designate one or more courthouses to be the courthouse to which jurors  
148 [shall] originally shall be summoned. The court may assign any jurors  
149 of a jury pool to attend any courtroom within the judicial district.

150 (f) On and after October 1, 2021, and until June 30, 2023, for each jury  
151 summons the Jury Administrator finds to be undeliverable, the Jury  
152 Administrator shall cause an additional randomly generated jury  
153 summons to be sent to a juror having a zip code that is the same as to  
154 which the undeliverable summons was sent.

155 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 51-232 of the general statutes is  
156 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
157 *1, 2022*):

158 (c) (1) The Jury Administrator shall [send] provide to a prospective  
159 juror a juror confirmation form and a confidential juror questionnaire.  
160 Such questionnaire shall include questions eliciting the juror's name,  
161 age, race and ethnicity, gender, occupation, education, [and]  
162 information usually raised in voir dire examination and such other  
163 demographic information determined appropriate by the Judicial  
164 Branch. The questionnaire shall inform the prospective juror that  
165 information concerning race and ethnicity is required solely to enforce  
166 nondiscrimination in jury selection, that the furnishing of such  
167 information is not a prerequisite to being qualified for jury service and  
168 that such information need not be furnished if the prospective juror  
169 finds it objectionable to do so. Such juror confirmation form and  
170 confidential juror questionnaire shall be signed by the prospective juror  
171 under penalty of false statement. Copies of the completed  
172 questionnaires shall be provided to the judge and to counsel for use  
173 during voir dire or in preparation therefor. Counsel shall be required to  
174 return such copies to the clerk of the court upon completion of the voir  
175 dire. Except for disclosure made during voir dire or unless the court  
176 orders otherwise, information inserted by jurors shall be held in  
177 confidence by the court, the parties, counsel and their authorized agents.  
178 Such completed questionnaires shall not constitute a public record.

179       (2) The Judicial Branch shall compile a record of the demographic  
180 characteristics of all persons who: (A) Are summoned for jury service,  
181 (B) participated in a panel, (C) are subject to a peremptory challenge, (D)  
182 are subject to challenge for cause, and (E) serve on a jury. Such record  
183 shall exclude personally identifiable information and shall be  
184 maintained in a manner that provides free and open access to the  
185 information on the Internet. As used in this subdivision, "personally  
186 identifiable information" means any identifying information that is  
187 linked or linkable to a specific individual.

188       Sec. 6. Section 51-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
189 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

190       (a) Each full-time employed juror shall be paid regular wages by the  
191 juror's employer for the first five days, or part thereof, of jury service.  
192 Such payment shall be subject to the requirements of section 31-71b and  
193 any employer who violates this section shall be subject to the provisions  
194 of sections 31-71g and 31-72. A person shall not be considered a full-time  
195 employed juror on any day of jury service in which such person (1)  
196 would not have accrued regular wages to be paid by the employer if  
197 such person were not serving as a juror on that day, or (2) would not  
198 have worked more than one-half of a shift which extends into another  
199 day if such person were not serving as a juror on that day. Each part-  
200 time employed or unemployed juror who has no source of  
201 compensation for the first five days of jury service shall receive a flat fee  
202 equal to the minimum fair wage, as defined in section 31-58, in effect on  
203 the days of jury service, based on an eight-hour day. Each juror not  
204 considered a full-time employed juror on a particular day of jury service  
205 pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection shall be reimbursed  
206 by the state for necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred during that  
207 day of jury service, [ provided such day of service is within the first five  
208 days, or part thereof, of jury service.] Each part-time employed juror and  
209 unemployed juror shall be reimbursed by the state for necessary out-of-  
210 pocket expenses incurred during the first five days, or part thereof, of  
211 jury service. Necessary out-of-pocket expenses shall include, but not be  
212 limited to, [twenty cents] family care at a rate established by the Jury

213 Administrator under subsection (b) of this section and travel expenses,  
214 based on the privately owned vehicle mileage reimbursement rate  
215 established by the federal General Services Administration, for each  
216 mile of travel from the juror's place of residence to the place of holding  
217 the court and return and shall exclude food. The mileage shall be  
218 determined by the shortest direct route either by highway or by any  
219 regular line of conveyance between the points. A reimbursement award  
220 under this subsection for each day of service shall not be less than  
221 twenty dollars or more than [fifty dollars] the minimum fair wage, as  
222 defined in section 31-58, in effect on the days of jury service, based on  
223 an eight-hour day. For the purposes of this subsection, "full-time  
224 employed juror" means an employee holding a position normally  
225 requiring thirty hours or more of service in each week, which position  
226 is neither temporary nor casual, and includes an employee holding a  
227 position through a temporary help service, as defined in section 31-129,  
228 which position normally requires thirty hours or more of service in each  
229 week, who has been working in that position for a period exceeding  
230 ninety days, and "part-time employed juror" means an employee  
231 holding a position normally requiring less than thirty hours of service  
232 in each week or an employee working on a temporary or casual basis.  
233 In the event that a juror may be considered to be both a full-time  
234 employed juror and a part-time employed juror for any day of the first  
235 five days, or part thereof, of jury service, such juror shall, for the  
236 purposes of this section, be considered to be a full-time employed juror  
237 only.

238 (b) The Jury Administrator shall establish guidelines for  
239 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to this section.

240 (c) Each juror who serves more than five days who is not paid by his  
241 or her employer after the fifth day shall be paid by the state for the sixth  
242 day and each day thereafter [at a rate of fifty dollars] a flat fee equal to  
243 the minimum fair wage, as defined in section 31-58, in effect on the days  
244 of jury service, based on an eight-hour day, per day of service. A juror  
245 receiving payment under this subsection shall not be entitled to any  
246 additional reimbursement. An unemployed or part-time employed

247 juror who serves more than five days shall also be entitled to family care  
248 and travel expenses paid at the rate specified in subsection (a) of this  
249 section and subject to the guidelines established in subsection (b) of this  
250 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	51-217
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	51-220
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	51-220a
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	51-232
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	51-232(c)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	51-247

**Statement of Purpose:**

To implement the recommendations of the Jury Selection Task Force.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*